

## VALLEYINBRIEF

## Animal rescuers need volunteers

A group that rescues animals during emergencies is looking to double its volunteer base.

The Canadian Disaster Animal Response Team works with Emergency Support Services to shelter animals during major fires and other disasters.

This year, in addition to responding to the recent Bear Creek wildfire, CDART responded to a number of apartment building and house fires, providing evacuees with safe sheltering and assistance for their pets.

To grow its volunteer base, CDART is offering two dates for its Introduction to Emergency Pet Services course this month — one in Kelowna and one in Penticton.

The Kelowna course will be offered Sept. 24 at the Enterprise Way fire hall from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Penticton course will be Sept. 25 at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen office on Martin Street, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The course is \$35 and students should bring a lunch. To obtain registration forms, contact Deborah at 250-493-9752 or in the evenings at 250-809-7152, email [deborah.silk@cdart.org](mailto:deborah.silk@cdart.org), or download them from the website at [www.cdart.org/training](http://www.cdart.org/training).

## Workshops set for Alzheimer's patients

People coping with a new Alzheimer's diagnosis can attend a series of programs designed to help them.

Shaping the Journey: living with dementia is designed for people experiencing the early symptoms of Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia, and who have had a recent diagnosis. It also is intended for care partners, family member or friends.

"Educating yourself will allow you to gain an understanding of what you and your family members are faced with, giving you the skills and confidence to maintain quality of life, both now and in the future," said Michele McCabe with the non-profit Alzheimer Society of B.C.

The five Thursday sessions start Sept. 29 and run through Oct. 27 from 10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Shaping the Journey: living with dementia takes place at the Alzheimer Society of B.C. Resource Centre, 865 Bernard Ave.

To register, contact McCabe at 250-860-0750 or [mmcabe@alzheimerbc.org](mailto:mmcabe@alzheimerbc.org)

## UBCO awards staff for contributions

Five people at UBC's Okanagan campus were recognized with special awards for their contributions to the university at a ceremony recently.

The Staff Awards of Excellence are awarded in the categories of Enhancing the UBC Experience, Leadership, Sustainability and Global Citizenship. In addition, the Deputy Vice Chancellor and Principal Award is made in recognition of their exceptional contribution to both the campus and community at large.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor and Principal Award recipient is Shelley Kayfish, director of health, safety and environment UBCO, who receives an honourarium in the amount of \$4,000 and a framed certificate.

The Enhancing the UBC Experience went to Craig Eden, voice systems and data network specialist, IT, media and classroom services.

Teija Wakeman, department administrator, School of Engineering, won the leadership award.

The Sustainability Award went to Russell LaMountain, Laboratory Manager, School of Engineering.

# About 100 searchers hunting for helicopter

## Chopper disappeared on the way to Kelowna

VICTORIA (CP) — Search-and-rescue officials remain hopeful but cautious that they can find a helicopter that has been missing in B.C. since Friday.

By Sunday afternoon, about 100 military and civilian searchers were focusing on two possible routes the pilot may have taken between Hope and Kelowna before he was reported missing.

"In the first few days, we're always hopeful of finding any signs that he may be stranded some-

where, may have had to set down for weather," said Capt. Gregory Clarke of the Search and Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Victoria. "Of course, it's early and we're going to investigate any lead we have and we'll go from there."

The pilot's name has not yet been released, but officials have already said he is in his 60s. The distance between Hope and Kelowna is about 244 kilometres.

Clarke said a military Buffalo fixed-wing aircraft and a Cormorant helicopter are involved, and search-and-rescue staff are getting help from a volunteer aviation group known as the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association.

Clarke said officials are also setting up a

search headquarters in Kelowna, which should be operational by the end of the day.

Clarke said the helicopter was last picked up by radar in Hope, and the search began Friday night after the pilot and his A Star helicopter failed to arrive in Kelowna.

He called the terrain along the two possible routes mountainous and rugged, and he said in some spots closer to Kelowna the terrain resembles a head of broccoli because the trees can have a thick canopy.

Clarke said while the weather has been cooling off, it's not winter yet.

"Right now we're hopeful, and you know, cautious but hopeful for sure," he said.

# Organic festival showcases green choices

By STEVE MACNAULL  
The Daily Courier

Kiki the Eco Elf donned a green wig, purple tutu, velvet shirt and multi-coloured stockings Sunday to sing at the Organic Okanagan Festival.

"I seem to get the go green environmental message out better dressed like this," said Kiki, aka Tanya Lipscomb from Vernon.

"Kids — and adults — respond to this."

The eco elf's set of songs, before a rapt audience of young and old, included her own compositions such as her signature piece Go Green (Just Like My Hair), Let's Treat the Earth Like a Friend, Reduce Reuse Recycle, and Shop Local Shop Organic.

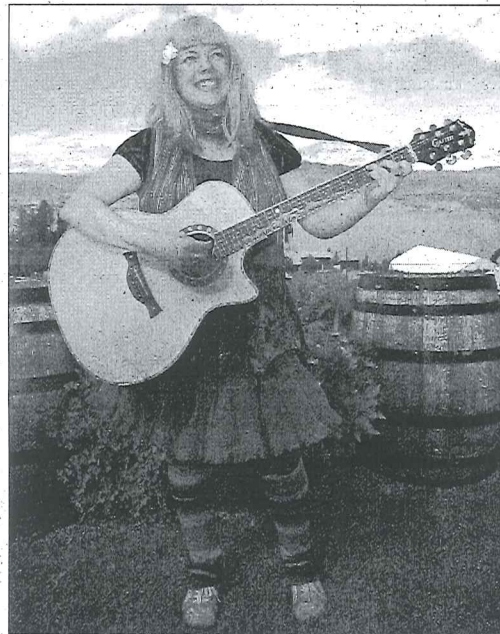
As Tanya Lipscomb, the singer also does gigs around the Valley with sets of jazz, blues, folk and soul.

"The four pillars of my music are the environment, social justice, heartbreak and love," she said with a smile.

The sixth annual Organic Okanagan Festival came in two parts this year with simultaneous events at Summerhill Pyramid Winery (where Kiki entertained) and the Kelowna campus of Okanagan College.

Winery events included an organic produce farmers market, sustainable goods and services trade fair, and an activists' alley of booths leading up to the pyramid.

Events at the college's Centre for Learning focused on green building technologies and alternative transportation from the good old fash-



STEVE MACNAULL/The Daily Courier

Kiki the Eco Elf, aka singer Tanya Lipscombe, entertained at the sixth annual Organic Okanagan Festival Sunday at Summerhill Pyramid Winery.

ioned bike to the electric car.

A free shuttle bus travelled between the two locations to keep car traffic, and thus pollution, down.

In all, there were 72 exhibitors at both locations and 1,500 people were expected to take in the festival.

"Green has gone mainstream," tri-

umphed festival organizer Wendy Wright of Okanagan Greens Society.

"When we had the first festival in 2006 we had 25 exhibitors and 300 people show up and while it was great it was mostly preaching to the converted. But now everyone seems to want to make change and this fes-



STEVE MACNAULL/The Daily Courier

Organic Festival organizer Wendy Wright says people are becoming more open to organic products.

tival is a fun, dynamic catalyst for them to do so."

Wright pointed to more bikes on the roads, the farmers markets flourishing and people always having reusable bags, containers and water bottles on hand as examples of how the general population is embracing a more environmentally-friendly lifestyle.

"I've been buying organic foods for 40 years and let me tell you early on it was hard to find," said Carol Martin, who was manning the Choices Market booth of the store's own brand Earth's Choice products.

"Now you can find organic on the shelves of every grocery store, especially Choices."

Martin was handing out samples of tortilla chips with salsa and rice cakes with almond butter.

# Expert to discuss changing Okanagan water policy

Special to The Daily Courier

The Okanagan as a centre of water science and policy innovation will be one of the topics raised in the next Science in Society lecture in Vernon.

Dr. Anna Warwick-Sears, executive director of the Okanagan Basin Water Board, will address many issues surrounding water in the Okanagan at a public presentation at Okanagan College's

Vernon campus on Tuesday, Sept. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

New models are evolving in British Columbia to regulate the use of water including such approaches as collaborative governance. As the government of B.C. is revising its century-old water act, informed input, from all stakeholders, is crucial. In her presentation, Warwick Sears will share the latest issues and approaches of the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Warwick Sears received a PhD in population biology at the University of California — Davis. Before coming to the Okanagan in 2006, she was the research director of an environmental non-profit organization in California, leading watershed restoration and planning initiatives.

Warwick Sears is particularly interested in using science to solve real-world problems.

Admission is \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door.

## The Daily Courier takes it to the streets

### At Sunday's Terry Fox Run in Kelowna

The Daily Courier is pleased to announce that it will be at the Terry Fox Run on Sunday, September 18, 2011.